

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Washington State School IPM Pilot Project, 2014-2015

February 2015 Update

Background

In 2013, the [Pesticide Program Dialogue Council](#) (PPDC) recommended, and EPA agreed to develop a focused project to advance [school IPM](#) implementation in one or more states. By advancing school IPM implementation, school districts within the pilot state(s) would realize reduce pest and pesticide risks to children. The pilot project would build on existing school IPM tools and partnerships and lead to state-level school IPM implementation guidance. Washington was chosen as the pilot state because of its foundation of both a strong urban IPM program and existing network of partners. In 2014, EPA provided funding (\$62,000) for a Washington State Department of Agriculture-Washington State University Extension (WSU) contract, as well as committed staff time to support the work. The project started July 1, 2014 and has a target completion date of December 31, 2015.

Goals

- Initiate, develop, and provide tools for a sustainable school IPM program in a state that is receptive to using IPM as a means of reduce children's exposure to pests and pesticides.
- Increase the number of school districts using IPM as their institutionalized approach to pest management.

Activities

1. Conducting focus groups

WSU conducted focus groups with school district personnel to determine the most effective forms of support (tools and/or strategies) for their IPM programs. This information will help prioritize future resource investments.

- a. Bellevue, WA Focus Group (August 2014 - five districts represented)
 - i. Observations
 1. Most participating districts have a school IPM policy
 2. Pest Presses are used but haven't received feedback from teachers
 - ii. Needs
 1. School IPM package similar to the Tools for Schools model
 2. 1-pager on IPM strategies for teachers
 3. 1-pager templates on IPM basics for administrators (principals and vice-principals)
 4. Pest ID guides for custodial staff
 - iii. Recommendations
 1. Incorporate [WA common core standards](#) into IPM curriculum to increase teacher participation
 2. Update the [Safe Schools IPM module](#) (good IPM overview) with more instruction for custodial staff (e.g. - What to do first when an ant problem is reported)

2. Building state partnerships

- a. Consulting the [Urban Pesticide Education Strategy Team](#), which includes many WA state agencies.
- b. Collaborated with several state associations on a School IPM letter of support sent to school districts to provide information on IPM resources and events and to encourage their involvement.

3. Encouraging peer-to-peer mentoring/Outreach efforts

- a. Organized a School IPM Core of Champions consisting of school district personnel who are leading robust IPM programs to serve as peer mentors. Will present at Coalition events throughout the 2014-2015 school year.
- b. R10 Planned events
 - i. WA School Business Officials conference
 - ii. Washington Association of Maintenance and Operations Administrators - custodians attend regional mini-conferences
 - iii. WA Superintendents Association
 - iv. PTA
 - v. Council of Educational Facility Planners

4. Providing recognition

- a. If practicable, pilot the EPA School IPM awards program.
- b. IPM Institute of North America's IPM STAR program. EPA will also recognize the Core of Champions.

5. Documenting what works and what doesn't

- a. Feedback is being sought from schools and partners on the usefulness of developed tools, effectiveness of incentives, and the number of students impacted.
- b. A lessons learned document will be created and webinar conducted for School IPM implementers at the conclusion of the pilot.